

30 January 1957

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MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence

SUBJECT : Discussion of Operation Alert 1957 Project for Cabinet Meeting Scheduled for 1 February 1957.

1. This memorandum contains a recommendation as to the position to be taken by the Agency on the subject of "Operation Alert 1957" at the Cabinet Meeting scheduled for 1 February 1957.

2. We have been informed that the plan prepared by the Office of Defense Mobilization for the holding of Operation Alert 1957 will be presented to the Cabinet for discussion at a meeting reportedly scheduled for 1 February 1957. We also have been informed that the Office of Defense Mobilization has rendered a report to Mr. James C. Magerty, Press Secretary to the President, on the public information aspects of Operation Alert 1956 in which they recommended that a method be devised whereby the Central Intelligence Agency would keep the Information Policy Board (to be created in time of emergency) apprised of pertinent intelligence information, comparable to the method devised for keeping the President and the War Cabinet advised of such information.

3. It is suggested that if this matter comes up at the Cabinet meeting a stand be taken opposing the setting up of such a procedure in view of the fact that the Information Policy Board referred to would act as the medium or conduit through which official information of an attack emergency would be issued to the press for public consumption. This function would appear to be incompatible with the security requirements of our mission in wartime emergency. If the Board should need specific advice on any particular question they could always seek such advice through the emergency communications facilities which will connect their relocation site with ours. It seems to me that as a general policy we should strive to stay out of the press relations business where possible and furnish our advice and guidance to the President and the War Cabinet, leaving to them the decision as to what will be passed to the Information Policy Board.

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Document No.	17
No Change in Class.	☒
☐ Declassified	
Class. Changed To:	TS S C
Auth:	HR 70-2
Date:	
By:	023

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Deputy Director
(Support)

EPO [redacted] (29 Jan 57)
Rewritten: DD/S:LKW:laq
Distribution:

0 & 1 - Add

1 - SPA-DD/S

✓ 1 - DD/S chrono

1 - DIA, subject

2- EPO; 1 - DD/S reading ; 1-SA-de1 (Gragan)

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